

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### COST-CONTAINMENT: THE BEST MEDICINE

#### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend AARP CEO Bill Novelli for sending a letter Monday to the heads of the leading pharmaceutical companies, requesting their cooperation in holding down drug price increases.

While this Member has questions about limiting drug price increases to an amount no greater than the level of inflation as advocated in this letter, this Member generally supports several of the concepts mentioned by Mr. Novelli, including prescription drug reimportation and drug efficacy studies.

Clearly, millions of Americans are finding prescription drug reimportation from Canada and other countries to be a viable and necessary alternative to high-priced drugs in the United States. The number of those Americans is growing every day. It would be wrong for Members of Congress to ignore this reality and to ignore the excessive cost of prescription drugs in America.

Large pharmaceutical manufacturers have long been gouging American consumers by charging substantially more, in some cases up to 90 percent more, for prescription drugs sold in the United States than in Canada and other industrialized countries. Increasing numbers of Americans understandably refuse to be exploited by the pharmaceutical industry any longer. The exploitation of American consumers must end. The excuse that most of the world's pharmaceutical research and development takes place in America does not justify the continued degree of cost-shifting onto the backs of American consumers. Profit levels of American, foreign, and multi-national pharmaceutical firms are among the highest in the business world, as is the level of their advertising budgets and inducements offered to prescribing physicians.

The reimportation debate is not a battle of right versus left. It is a battle of right versus wrong. It is simply wrong to require Americans to pay the world's highest prices for prescription drugs, so they thereby can subsidize consumers everywhere else on earth to generate the research, advertising and profit revenues for pharmaceutical companies.

As a Member of Congress serving in the people's House, this Member has a responsibility to do what is right for Nebraskans and all Americans. This Member supports prescription drug reimportation because Americans deserve access to quality drugs at world market prices and reimportation seems to be the only solution immediately available to reduce the gross overcharge of American consumers for prescription drugs.

This Member is also supportive of drug efficacy studies. This Member offered an amendment to the House Labor, Health and Human

Services, and Education appropriations bill, requiring the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to spend \$12 million to conduct research on the clinical appropriateness and cost-effectiveness of prescription drugs. This language was maintained and included in the final appropriations measure, which was signed into law.

Americans deserve the best health care for their dollar. It is essential for clinicians, patients, health plans, insurers, and those financing health care services to have access to credible, objective information on the benefits, risks, and costs of prescription drugs so they can make informed decisions about the prescriptions they consume and prescribe. Americans need information regarding the effectiveness, quality, and cost-effectiveness of new drugs, in comparison with existing alternatives, especially when new drugs can cost much more than those now on the market. Understanding which medicines work the best for which patients and at what costs, as well as understanding how to administer and monitor medication use in a way that ensures patients' safety is of critical importance to the health care system.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this Member encourages measures to control the outrageous costs of lifesaving prescription drugs. This is the best medicine for Nebraskans and all Americans.

### TRIBUTE TO MS. FLORIS INGRAHAM JOHNSON

#### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ms. Floris Ingraham Johnson, who celebrated her centennial birthday on Monday, March 15, 2004.

Born in 1904 to the late Eldred and Helena Moss on Governor's Harbor-Eleuthera, The Bahamas, Ms. Johnson will be feted during ceremonies this Sunday at the Ebenezer United Methodist Church in my District. The Rev. Dr. Jimmie L. Brown, the distinguished Pastor, will lead his congregation in paying this unprecedented tribute to our centenarian celebrant.

I would like to join the family, relatives and friends of Ms. Johnson toward reserving the utmost respect and genuine admiration for her 100 years of living, working and serving the less fortunate of our community. In fact, she worked to take care of the elderly until she was 83 years old. It is my understanding that she was genuinely inspired to focus her vocation of service to the elderly by a genuine devotion to her Christian stewardship. She joyfully welcomes the challenge of each day, abiding by her favorite Scripture passage: "This is the day which the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad!" This is the simple recipe of good living with which she manages to de-

fine every passing day by looking at it as an opportunity to perform yet another work of love and another work of compassion for those yearning to see God's design in their lives.

Ms. Johnson's quest for the quiet and dignified life is remarkably characterized by her passion for the simple things in God's wonderful world of creation—beautifying her surroundings with the planting of flowers, especially roses, and embellishing her home with varied knick-knacks she has picked up from nearby nickel-and-dime stores. She has also devoted countless days in defining the longevity of her life by volunteering for the Feed the Hungry in Africa organization and by working with the Salvation Army and the Red Cross.

Although she immensely enjoyed independent living until she was 97 years old, she is now a resident of the Franco Nursing Home where she is genuinely loved and respected by her fellow residents and the nursing staff. Indeed, she is uniquely blessed in that she never had to suffer any sick day in her life with "... no pains, no aches—just old age."

I join the Rev. Dr. Jimmie L. Brown this Sunday as he leads the congregation of Ebenezer United Methodist Church in thanking God for the blessings He has bountifully given to our birthday centenarian, Ms. Floris Ingraham Johnson. We are comforted by her exemplary life of simplicity and devotion, and it is this legacy that she bequeaths to us, and for which we will honor her.

Happy centennial birthday, Ms. Johnson, and God bless and love you!

### CONGRATULATING KUAM FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO GUAM

#### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commend and congratulate KUAM and its staff and management for 50 years of service to the community of Guam. Believe it or not, I was one of KUAM's first employees, starting work at the station 2 weeks before it went on the air.

Prior to the advent of KUAM, the only radio service provided in the Marianas was Armed Forces Radio Services, which began broadcasting in Guam shortly after World War II. On March 14, 1954, after almost a decade of broadcasting, Armed Forces Radio Services went off the air at 5:55 p.m.

At 6:00 p.m., 5 minutes later, the Star Spangled Banner was broadcast on 610 AM and KUAM radio was born. This marked a significant milestone as it was the first commercial broadcast in Guam and the Marianas. Notable from the first day's broadcast was a congratulatory message from Frank Sinatra, who inadvertently ended his greeting with the Hawaiian Aloha instead of the Chamorro Hafa Adai. An

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

affiliate of the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) since its inception, KUAM Radio 610 offered a new community forum for entertainment, education, politics, and commercial advertising. At the time, only 35–55 percent of Guam homes had radios and a 15 second commercial cost as little as \$3. The original owner of KUAM was Mr. Harry S. Engel, who owned and managed KVEN in Ventura, California. The idea of opening a radio station in Guam came to him after reading a magazine article about the post-war years of Guam.

Two years later, on August 5, 1956, KUAM expanded its services to television, broadcasting a limited range of local and educational programming. Although not every household had a television, KUAM TV8 revolutionized media in Guam, providing a new avenue for communication and entertainment. In addition to a number of local variety shows, KUAM TV8 also broadcast national programming, which was shipped to Guam to be viewed weeks or sometimes months after the original broadcast. In 1970, KUAM TV went color.

On September 1, 1966, KUAM added a third outlet to its media family by introducing a radio station on the FM dial. 93.9 FM eventually transformed itself from playing canned music to becoming a rock station with live DJs. In 1989, KUAM 610 changed its name to 610 Estasion Minagof, becoming Guam's first and only all-Chamorro station.

Today, KUAM is locally owned and operated by Calvo Enterprises, Inc. as Pacific Telestations, Inc. KUAM's media services now include KUAM TV8, TV 11, I-94 FM, Isla-610 AM, and KUAM.com. KUAM actively gives back to the community through the KUAM Care Force with projects ranging from providing wheelchairs for disabled individuals who cannot afford them to supporting bone marrow drives to helping feed Guam's hungry. The media time KUAM makes available to non-profit organizations has been an invaluable service to the community.

I was an employee at KUAM from 1954 to 1966. I worked my way from the bottom up, starting as a receptionist and eventually becoming a local news reporter, Program Director, and finally Women's Director. After attaining my FCC license I hosted programs on both KUAM 610 AM and KUAM TV8. Some of my highlights include hosting a Women's World program on both radio and television, telling children's stories, hosting a daily local events calendar, and even playing radio personality "Lorelei" who entertained the many servicemen stationed in Guam with sentimental music and a sultry voice. The name comes from a German legend of a siren name Lorelei that bewitched the hearts of sailors, causing them to crash their ships into the Rhine River.

Although I am disappointed I was not able to celebrate with them in person, I wish KUAM a happy 50th anniversary and wish them success in their next 50 years.

## NEBRASKA IS A GREAT STATE FOR BUSINESSES TO GROW AND FLOURISH

### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 16, 2004*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following article from the March 10, 2004, Lincoln Journal Star. According to the article, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce conducted a national survey of 1,402 senior corporate attorneys on the business litigation environment in the different states. This article indicates that Nebraska is ranked second out of the 50 states in this survey which took into account factors such as the treatment of liability and class action lawsuits; punitive damages, fairness and competence of juries, and judge impartiality.

This U.S. Chamber of Commerce survey illustrates that Nebraska is a great state for businesses to grow and flourish. Businesses should want to locate in a state like Nebraska which has a fair judicial system, among the many positive attributes of this great state. As a result of the findings of this survey, this Member hopes that more businesses will move to Nebraska which will create additional jobs.

[From the Lincoln Journal Star, Mar. 10, 2004]

#### STATE'S COURTS RANK SECOND IN FAIRNESS

OMAHA.—Nebraska's court system ranks second in fairness when it comes to liability suits, according to a survey of corporate attorneys by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

It is the second year in a row Nebraska has been listed in the top five of the pro-business group's survey.

Nebraska's good liability reputation can help the state business-wise, the group said.

"Businesses go where they are wanted and they bring jobs and economic growth to states with the best legal systems," Thomas Donahue, the U.S. Chamber president, said in a statement.

The chamber's study says 80 percent of the 1,402 senior corporate attorneys surveyed said the "litigation environment" in a state could affect such decisions at their companies as where to locate or do business.

The Chamber of Commerce's survey took such factors into consideration as treatment of liability and class-action suits, the issuance of punitive damages, judge impartiality and competence, and the predictability and fairness of juries.

Delaware was rated the best, followed by Nebraska, Virginia, Iowa and Idaho. Last year, the top five list was Delaware, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and Indiana.

From best to worst, the bottom five in this year's Chamber of Commerce survey were California, Louisiana, Alabama, West Virginia and Mississippi.

The survey is done by the Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Legal Reform and is in its third year.

The group says the wide gap the survey shows between the best and worst states underscores the need for federal and state reforms on class-action, asbestos litigation and medical malpractice suits.

#### CORPORATE COURT RANKING

National rankings of state court systems according to a survey of 1,402 senior corporate attorneys by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce:

1. Delaware

2. Nebraska
3. Virginia
4. Iowa
5. Idaho
6. Utah
7. New Hampshire
8. Minnesota
9. Kansas
10. Wisconsin
11. Indiana
12. Maine
13. Colorado
14. Arizona
15. Wyoming
16. North Dakota
17. South Dakota
18. Connecticut
19. North Carolina
20. Vermont
21. Maryland
22. New York
23. Michigan
24. Washington
25. Tennessee
26. New Jersey
27. Oregon
28. Massachusetts
29. Georgia
30. Pennsylvania
31. Oklahoma
32. Ohio
33. Alaska
34. Nevada
35. Kentucky
36. Rhode Island
37. New Mexico
38. Florida
39. Hawaii
40. South Carolina
41. Missouri
42. Arkansas
43. Montana
44. Illinois
45. Texas
46. California
47. Louisiana
48. Alabama
49. West Virginia
50. Mississippi

## THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3970, THE GREEN CHEMISTRY RE- SEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2004

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 16, 2004*

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce an important piece of legislation, "The Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2004." Many of you may wonder, what is green chemistry? So I will start with a brief explanation. Chemical manufacturing is the source of many products upon which we depend such as medicines, plastics, fuels, and fabrics. However, chemical manufacturing has also resulted in harm to the environment and human health. The goal of green chemistry is to minimize or, ideally, to eliminate this harm. It is defined as the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances. By factoring hazard in to the design of products and processes, chemists can design chemicals to be safe, just as they can design them to have other properties, such as color or texture.

Many private sector industries have recognized the potential of green chemistry. Along